

Story 1475 (1989 Tape 9)

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The Partridge and the Term "Bismillahirrahmanirrahim"¹

One day while a fox was hunting, he caught a partridge. He was just ready to kill the partridge when the bird spoke to him. "Please, Brother Fox, delay killing me for a few moments. I know that I am your prey and that you are going to eat me. But you should first, according to our religion, allow me to say my prayers, and you yourself should say, 'Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.'"

When the fox opened his mouth to say, "Bismillahirrahmanirrahim," the partridge immediately flew away

¹In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful--the opening words of the Koran. Just the first part of this expression, Bismillah (In the name of Allah) is used not so much in prayer as the longer word is used, but as a respectful and worshipful gesture to the Deity in order to gain success for any venture. It has the sense of suggesting "I begin this with the name of Allah."